

That is why, when passing the bipartisan infrastructure law, we knew, as President Biden said, "We could grow the economy, enhance our competitiveness, create good jobs, and make our economy more sustainable, just, and resilient."

Mr. Speaker, I believe we have done that. As I explained to many of my colleagues last year, the Infrastructure of my home in the U.S. Virgin Islands has suffered extremely from systematic lack of investment. Our infrastructure issues were further exacerbated by the 2017 Hurricanes Irma and Maria, which were both Category 5 hurricanes.

When you hear that 1 in 5 miles, or 173,000 total miles, of our highways and major roads, and 45,000 bridges across the United States are in poor condition, think about what that looks like on a hurricane-prone island where residents may rely on a single road for passage of crucial resources and emergency services vehicles.

As Americans, the residents of the Virgin Islands needed us, as Congress, to step up. By passing the bipartisan infrastructure plan, we answered the call for all Americans.

To date, the Virgin Islands has been allocated \$18.4 million, of an expected \$96 million, to rebuild and strengthen our roads and bridges. In addition, over 1,600 households in the U.S. Virgin Islands have already enrolled in the Affordable Connectivity Program, which aims to provide affordable, high-speed internet to every American. That is about 43 percent of the total households on the island of St. John alone who now have access to high-speed internet.

Turning to the island's power supply, we now have much-needed capital to weatherize our power lines, which will prevent outages and make the power grid more resilient. Put differently, we are now better equipped to save lives.

In addition to these historic investments, I would like to highlight the announcement of two key projects:

First, under our Watershed Project, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will invest \$51.7 million to reduce flood risk and damage to the Savan Gut area in our capital, Charlotte Amalie. The area is within the 100-year old flood plain and has recurring flooding problems primarily in the central business district and local elementary school. Therefore, as I am sure you can tell, the completion of this project is vital to protecting the future of our children, schools, and local businesses.

Second, in our Airport Project, the Department of Transportation has awarded nearly \$4 million to Cyril E. King Airport to support its modernization and improve safety.

There are so many projects that all Americans are guaranteed because of the work of these House Democrats, along with our President, who have put the people of America forward in ensuring that infrastructure will meet the needs of a future America.

So, today, as we celebrate the many successes of the infrastructure plan,

creating good-paying jobs, union jobs, helping fight climate change, advancing environmental justice, boosting domestic manufacturing, strengthening critical links in our supply chains, and ultimately lowering the cost of living for working families, I would like to challenge and encourage all of us to continue to work together to address the challenges of the American people, this country, and our world. Together, we can make a difference.

HONORING THE LIFE OF TERRY BARKER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. VAN DUYNE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart. Over the weekend, tragedy struck North Texas as six lives were taken in an air show honoring our veterans. One victim was Texas-24 resident and local leader, Terry Barker.

Terry was the epitome of an all-American hero. An Army veteran and American Airlines pilot of 36 years, Terry spent decades of his storied and accomplished life serving others. His service in the Army and unmatched dedication to honoring veterans is a testament to the kind of man Terry was.

Just last week, to pay tribute to veterans, Terry helped set up the Keller Field of Honor: 1,776 full-size U.S. flags dedicated to the 1,776 heroes. He then took to the skies one last time in a World War II era B-17 bomber to pay tribute to the Greatest Generation.

Terry was also a dedicated public servant, spending two terms as a Keller City councilmember. My friend and colleague, Keller Mayor Armin Mizani, described Terry as his mentor, and an "outgoing and selfless man who always had a joke to share."

Texas-24 lost an American patriot, a public servant, and beloved friend this week. I ask you to please join me in praying for Terry, his family, and all of those affected by this weekend's tragedy.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF SERGEANT DENNIS L. PAVLIK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BACON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Sergeant Dennis L. Pavlik, who is believed to be the last living Korean war POW from Nebraska.

Sergeant Pavlik joined the United States Army in October of 1952 when he was inducted at Fort Omaha in Nebraska. Sergeant Pavlik was then assigned to B Company, the 22nd Armored Engineer for artillery basic training, which he completed at Camp Chaffee, Arkansas.

Following his completion of basic training, Sergeant Pavlik was assigned to C Battery, the 555 Field Artillery, also known as the Triple Nickel.

Sergeant Pavlik then moved to a variety of locations across Korea, finally landing near Kumsong in a location known as the Kumsong Salient. It was there, on the night of July 13, 1953, that Sergeant Pavlik's artillery was under intense enemy counter barrage ending in the eventual imprisonment of multiple United States soldiers.

Sergeant Pavlik and his fellow soldiers were then forced to march north to a POW camp the Chinese referred to as Camp Six. It was here Sergeant Pavlik spent 42 days as a prisoner of war, which he has referred to as "the longest 6 weeks of my life."

Sergeant Pavlik stated the most important lesson he learned during those 6 weeks is the knowledge of freedom. As the war in Korea ended, Sergeant Pavlik was then released from Camp Six and eventually returned to United States soil on August 25, 1953, just 1 month after the official end of the Korean war.

Sergeant Pavlik ended his military service on July 20, 1954, and was awarded the Bronze Star with the "V" for Valor Device, the Good Conduct Medal, the POW Medal, National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Service Medal with two Battle Stars, United Nations Service Medal, and the Korean Presidential Unit Citation.

Today, he resides in Omaha, Nebraska, with his wife, Luella, and has three children and five grandchildren.

Sergeant Pavlik also serves as the Post Commander for the American Ex-Prisoner of War Department of Nebraska.

It is with great honor that I recognize the last-known prisoner of war survivor for the Korean war, and my good friend, Nebraska Sergeant Dennis L. Pavlik.

HONORING THE LIFE OF VINCE DOOLEY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my condolences to the families of Vince Dooley, legendary football coach at the University of Georgia.

Coach Dooley was a talented multi-sport athlete in his youth and played quarterback for the Auburn University Tigers.

In 1960, he married the love of his life, Barbara, and they have four children together.

In 1963, he became the head coach of the University of Georgia Bulldogs, where he led them through 1988. During his tenure, he guided the prolific football team to a record of 201 wins and only 77 losses. Coach Dooley's teams won six Southeastern Conference championships and the momentous 1980 national championship.

As a coach, he received five Coach of the Year awards, was five times voted SEC Coach of the Year, and has now been inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame.